

Application Serial No.: 10/627,554
Amendment and Response to October 5, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 – 18, and 20 – 23 are in the application, with claims 1, 17, 22, and 23 having been amended and claims 3 and 19 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 23 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,046,779 ("Hesse"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 17, 22, and 23

Amended independent claim 1 relates to a method for indicating a speaker during a conference. The method comprises determining a list of participants in a conference, determining a sample from the conference, determining a participant from the list that is speaking during the sample, providing data indicative of the sample, and providing data indicative of the participant. Moreover, the method includes displaying a graphic indication that the participant is speaking.

The art of record cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest the above-mentioned features of amended independent claim 1. In particular, the art of record cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest displaying a graphic indication that a conference participant is speaking.

Hesse describes a video conference system that includes multiple participant stations and a control station. The Office Action states that Hesse "teaches causing a display of an indication that said participant is speaking" and refers to FIG. 2, item 210 (conduct conference process) and item 242 (speaker). The conduct conference process

Application Serial No.: 10/627,554
Amendment and Response to October 5, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

210, as stated in column 7, line 56, through column 8, line 1, reviews conference plans 208 and, when the start time of a conference approaches, (a) identifies equipment and configurations to select, (b) directs network input/output to establish links, (c) confirms identification of human participants prior to allowing participation, and (d) directs a provide notice process to provide notice of the upcoming conference to a coordinator. However, nowhere does the conduct conference process 210 provide a graphic indication that a human participant is speaking. The cited speaker 242 is a component of a conference participant station that provides audio and can in no way be seen to disclose providing a graphic indication that the human participant is speaking.

Therefore, Hesse cannot be seen to disclose or to suggest displaying a graphic indication that a participant is speaking. In view of the foregoing, amended independent claim 1 and its related dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Amended independent claims 17, 22, and 23 relate to a system, a system, and an article of manufacture, respectively, in which a graphic indication that a participant is speaking is to be displayed. In view of the aforementioned deficiencies, amended independent claims 17, 22, and 23 and their related dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding Office Action presents a number of characterizations regarding each of the applied references, some of which are not directly addressed herein because they are not related to the rejections of the independent claims. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterizations and reserve the right to further discuss those characterizations.

For at least the reasons given above, it is submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further

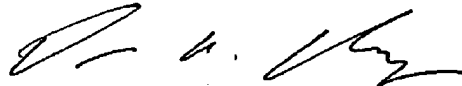
Application Serial No.: 10/627,554
Amendment and Response to October 5, 2007 Non-Final Office Action

suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the undersigned via telephone at (408) 492-5336.

Respectfully submitted,

January 3, 2008

Date



David D. Chung

Registration No. 38,409

Direct Dial: (408) 492-5336

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Customer Number: 28524
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830